

# Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

## July 21 - July 27, 2008 Volume 2, Issue 91



# Weekly Update

## Mitch's Kids participation nears 10,000 mark

July 23, 2008 – The number of Hoosier children who have received homework assistance, tutoring and career exploration through Mitch's Kids, Governor Mitch Daniels' statewide initiative in Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Indiana, is nearing 10,000, and their reading and math skills are improving.

Many of the participants, who are 5 to 14 years old, have improved their reading and math fluency scores by at least two grade levels, according to pre- and post-testing by the Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. Of the 9,610 children who have enrolled in Mitch's Kids since it started in January 2006 and who participated in the reading and math homework sessions, the average increase in reading scores was 47 percent and the average increase in math scores was 48 percent.

"I couldn't be more proud of what these kids are accomplishing and how the Boys & Girls Clubs are making a difference in their lives. This is the most effective effort anywhere to address the achievement gap and give low-income kids a chance to realize their potential," said Daniels, who visited the Boys & Girls Club of Valparaiso today.

The Valparaiso Club had some of the highest average increases in reading and math scores in 2007-08. Children in the club improved reading scores by 102 percent and their math scores by 103 percent. Other Porter County Clubs, including Northview, South Haven and Portage Forrest Dusty Rhode, also are among those showing great improvement in both areas.

The governor has committed \$1 million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds each year since the start of the program. Mitch's Kids works in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Club after-school POWER Hour program at 65 clubs throughout the state. Participants receive homework and tutoring sessions for a specified number of weeks and are tested to determine reading and math progress. In addition, nearly 4,000 of the total enrolled children have also participated in career exploration activities.

The governor established Mitch's Kids to help close the achievement gap. Ninety-five percent of participants receive free or reduced price lunch. The Family and Social Services Administration works with Boys & Girls Clubs to identify and enroll children from low-income households. Overall goals are to increase the quality and quantity of homework completed and improve student behavior and attitudes about school and learning. The program's goal for reading and math tests is to increase scores by at least 10 percent for first and second graders and by at least 15 percent for third through eighth graders.



*July 23, 2008 – Governor Daniels made a visit to the Porter County children who participate in Mitch's Kids, the governor's after school program that focuses on closing achievement gaps.*

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

## Governor presents state trails grants in northwest Indiana

July 23, 2008— Governor Mitch Daniels formally presented state trails grants last week for the North Judson – Monterey Trail, the C&O Trail and the Pennsy Greenway in northwest Indiana. The grants, which were announced earlier this year, are part of the *Hoosiers on the Move* statewide trails plan.

In May, the governor announced a one-time distribution of \$19 million in new investment directed to 28 projects resulting in 104 miles of new trails. The \$19 million is in addition to the \$20 million invested in trails funding by the state annually as a part of the *Hoosiers on the Move* initiative.

The Hoosier Valley Railroad Trail Committee accepted a \$450,000 grant to begin work on approximately three miles of trail in Starke and Pulaski counties. When complete, the 16-mile trail will connect North Judson to Monterey and will utilize a former INDOT wayside area as its trailhead.

The Pennsy Greenway received a \$900,000 grant to develop 1.5 miles of trail on an abandoned Penn Central Railroad line in Munster. The C&O Trail received an \$800,000 grant to develop 1.7 miles of trail in downtown Merrillville.

Currently the state system includes about 400 miles of multi-use trails. The 10-year plan calls for every Hoosier to be within 15 minutes of a trail.



July 23, 2008 – Governor Daniels presented state trails grants to the Pennsy Greenway in Munster and the C&O Trail in Merrillville for \$900,000 and \$800,000, respectively. The grants are part of a state trails initiative that aims to put all Hoosiers within 15 minutes of trail.



July 23, 2008 – Governor Daniels was on hand to present a \$450,000 state trails grant to the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum in North Judson. The funds will be used to begin work on the North Judson-Monterrey Trail in Starke and Pulaski Counties.

## What's Happening In My County

visit the [IN.gov](http://www.in.gov) map feature >



## EMERGENCY.IN.GOV

Reminder: Hoosiers living in the 40 counties approved for FEMA individual assistance must apply by August 11. Visit [www.emergency.in.gov](http://www.emergency.in.gov) for more information.

Did you know...

...new pictures are added to Governor Daniels' photo gallery every week? Click [here](#) for more!



## Daniels makes stops in northern Indiana

July 23, 2008—Governor Daniels made eight stops across the northern part of the state on Wednesday.

In addition to visiting Mitch's Kids participants in Valparaiso and presenting state trails grants in Munster and North Judson, the governor made several stops in Fulton and Wabash Counties.

He stopped at Sloane's Fine Food and Spirits in Akron before enjoying breakfast in Rensselaer at Clauss' Bakery and Cafe, owned by Rex and Tammy Clauss. They invited him by sending him a pie, and found the bakery and café to be the perfect place for a cup of coffee and a donut before heading to North Judson.

Later in the day, he traveled to Urbana where he visited Dr. Jeff Biehl's veterinary clinic and enjoyed some friendly conversation at Pam's Café. The governor finished the afternoon with a stop at McKillip Seeds in Wabash. Governor Daniels ended his day in Rochester, where he gave the keynote address at the Fulton County Lincoln Day Dinner.

## Governor visits eastern part of state to celebrate 100 years of the Model T

July 24, 2008— The governor joined Farmland residents and local government officials to celebrate the completed reconstruction of the State Road 32 roadbed and the repositioning of State Road 1. The \$10 million initiative also included a drainage project.

Later in the afternoon, Governor Daniels joined Model T owners and Richmond residents in a parade commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Model T Ford. The parade was part of a week-long celebration hosted by the Model T Ford Club of America and featured more than 750 cars.



July 23, 2008 – Governor Daniels visited McKillip Seed Company, Inc. during a recent trip to the Wabash area.



July 24, 2008 – Governor Daniels was on hand to celebrate the completed reconstruction of the State Road 32 and State Road 1 in Farmland.



July 24, 2008 –Governor Daniels joined Model T owners in a parade commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Model T Ford. The parade was part of a weeklong celebration hosted by the Model T Ford Club of American and featured more than 750 cars.

Did you know...

...Governor Daniels' recent audio is available online? Log on and listen in [here!](#)

## Global orthopaedic developer to expand Warsaw operations

July 21, 2008- Zimmer Holdings, Inc. (NYSE and SWX: ZMH), a designer, manufacturer and global distributor of orthopaedic devices, announced last week it will expand its north central Indiana operations in Warsaw, creating nearly 100 new jobs by 2011.

The maker of joint replacements, spinal systems and other implants plans to invest more than \$19 million to add approximately 50,000 square feet to its foundry operations, boosting automation of the facility and increasing annual output by approximately 1.3 million castings a year.

"Companies like Zimmer can locate new job-creating investment anywhere. For the fourth time in four years, Indiana has won the global competition for new investment from Zimmer, and Hoosiers will benefit from the new jobs the company will create for years to come," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

Headquartered in the Indiana city of 13,000, Zimmer will begin hiring engineers, supervisors and machine operators in 2009 to staff the expanded metal-making facility. The company currently employs approximately 2,800 at its Warsaw operations.

## Finish Line to Expand Its Indianapolis Operations

July 30, 2008- Mall-based retailer Finish Line, Inc., (NASDAQ: FINL), has announced its plans to expand its operations in Indianapolis, including adding more than 180 new jobs over the next five years.

The Indianapolis-headquartered company, which operates nearly 700 Finish Line and 100 Man Alive stores across the country, plans to invest more than \$34 million which includes the expansion of its approximate 800,000 square-foot national distribution center and corporate headquarters located on Indianapolis' east side.

"The Finish Line joins a growing list of companies like Telamon, Author Solutions and White Lodging that have decided to grow their headquarters in Indiana. Headquarters locations, with the high-paying jobs and community commitment they bring, are the best news an economy can get," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

The company, which employs more than 670 associates at its Indianapolis headquarters and distribution center and approximately 13,000 associates across the country, will hire corporate headquarters and distribution associates as the company expands its facilities over the five-year period.



July 27, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels and Major General R. Martin Umbarger joined NASCAR Sprint Cup driver Dale Earnhardt, Jr. on pit road at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway before the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard.



July 27, 2008- Governor Daniels joined race fans in the infield at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway during the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard.



July 27, 2008- Governor Daniels visited with race fans at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway before the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard.

## A Look Ahead...

**...This week Governor Daniels will visit Martinsville, Nashville and Crown Point.**